

## Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
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R 141045Z AUG 78  
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FOR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT: GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND BUREAU OF MINES

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EMIN, PINT, TU  
SUBJ: DR SADRETTIN ALPAN REPLACED AS DIRECTOR OF TURKISH MINERAL  
RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION INSTITUTE

1. OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF AUGUST 10 ANNOUNCED THE REMOVAL OF  
DR SADRETTIN ALPAN FROM HIS POSITION AS GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE  
MINERAL RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION INSTITUTE OF TURKEY (MTA), AND  
HIS TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT BY PROFESSOR NEZIHI CANITEZ OF THE BLACK  
SEA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. DR ALPAN HAD BEEN HEAD OF MTA SINCE  
1960 AND EMPLOYED BY MTA SINCE 1951. NO REASON HAS BEEN CITED  
FOR HIS REMOVAL, BUT HE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A CASUALTY OF  
DOMESTIC POLITICS.

2. DR ALPAN HAD A HIGH REPUTATION IN TURKEY AND ABROAD AS  
THE ABLE ADMINISTRATOR OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS GREAT  
IMPORTANCE FOR TURKISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THAT ENJOYS,  
THANKS LARGELY TO HIM, WIDE-REACHING CONNECTIONS ABROAD  
WITH MINERALOGISTS, MINING EXPERTS AND COUNTERPART  
INSTITUTIONS.

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3. THE MOVE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE  
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DENIZ BAYKAL. THE  
DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS THAT MUST EXIST BETWEEN THEM HAVE NEVER  
SURFACED PUBLICLY. IT IS NOT HARD TO IMAGINE, HOWEVER, THAT  
ALPAN MIGHT HAVE FOUND UNSYMPATHETIC THE STRONG LEFT-OF-CENTER  
BENT IN THE MINISTRY SINCE BAYKAL CAME INTO OFFICE LAST

JANUARY. ALPAN THOROUGHLY APPRECIATES THE FACT THAT ENORMOUS INVESTMENT IS REQUIRED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TURKEY'S MINERAL RESOURCES, THAT TURKEY CANNOT FIND ADEQUATE DOMESTIC FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO LOOK TO FOREIGNERS TO PROVIDE SOME OF THE CAPITAL NEEDED. MY BAYKAL, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS DISCOURAGED FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN THE MINERALS AND PETROLEUM SECTOR, PROPOSING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXTEND THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO NATIONALIZE MINING ENTERPRISES AND SEEKING TO FORCE FOREIGN COMPANIES OUT OF THE OIL REFINERY BUSINESS IN TURKEY.

4. IN A CONVERSATION AT MTA JULY 20, WITH THE CHARGE AND THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, DR ALPAN REMARKED THAT MANY MINERALS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN TURKEY BUT THEY WERE NOT BEING MINED, PARTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF INVESTMENT FUNDS. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT WAS NECESSARY FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT. IF TURKEY WERE ABLE TO INVEST TL 8 BILLION (\$320 MILLION) IN ITS IRON, COPPER, LEAD AND ZINC RESOURCES ALONE, IT COULD OBTAIN AN INCOME OF TL 4 BILLION A YEAR AND CREATE 7,000 JOBS IMMEDIATELY, HE SAID. IF IT WERE TO INVEST TL 3 BILLION (\$120 MILLION) IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS, IT COULD GET A RETURN OF TL 3.2 BILLION A YEAR. IF IT INVESTED TL 11 BILLION (\$440 MILLION) IN ENERGY SOURCES, THE COUNTRY COULD GET BACK TL 4 BILLION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A YEAR. IF IT INVESTED TL 25 BILLION (\$1 BILLION) IN GENERAL IN MINERALS DEVELOPMENT, IT COULD EARN TL 10 BILLION A YEAR WITHIN FIVE YEARS. THIS THESIS WOULD NOT HAVE APPEALED TO BAYKAL.

5. FERID KROMER, PRIVATE MINING CONSULTANT, WITH WHOM EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE CHANGE, FEARED THAT ALPAN'S DEPARTURE FROM MTA MIGHT RESULT IN A POLITICIZATION OF THE INSTITUTION. ALPAN HAS NOT IDENTIFIED WITH ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTY AND HAS SERVED UNDER A SUCCESSION OF GOVERNMENTS. DILLON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, EXPLORATION, MINERALS  
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